Why May Not The Race Attain What One Man May Attain

EMULATION

HEN an ambitious young man from the "provinces" signified to Robert Ingersoll his intention of coming to Peoria and earning an honest living, he was encouraged by the Bishop of Agnosticism with the assurance that he would find no competition.

Personally, speaking for my single self, I should say that no man is in so dangerous a position as he who has no competition in well doing. Competition is not only the life of trade but of everything else. There have been times when I have thought that I had no competition in truth-telling, and then to prevent complacency I entered into competition with myself and endeavored to outdo my record.

The natural concentration of business concerns in one line, in one locality, suggests

the advantages that accrue from attrition and propinquity ❧ Everybody is stirred to increased endeavor; everybody knows the scheme which will not work, for elimination is a great factor in success; the knowledge that one has is the acquirement of all. Strong men must match themselves against strong men—good wrestlers will need only good wrestlers. And so in a match of wit rivals out-classed go unnoticed, and there is always an effort to go the adversary one better.

Our socialist comrades tell us that "emulation" is the better word and that "competition" will have to go. The fact is that the thing itself will ever remain the same; what you call it matters little ❧ We have, however, shifted the battle from the purely physical to the mental and psychic plane. But it is competition still, and the reason competition will remain is because it is beautiful, beneficent and right. It is the desire to excel. Lovers are always in competition with each other to see who can love

most. ¶ The best results are obtained where competition is the most free and most severe —read history. The orator speaks and the man who rises to reply would better have something to say ❧ If your studio is next door to that of a great painter you would better get you to your easel, and quickly, too. ¶ The alternating current gives power: only an obstructed current gives either heat or light; all good things require difficulty. The mutual admiration society is largely given up to criticism.

Wit is progressive. Cheap jokes go with cheap people, but when you are with those of subtle insight, who make close mental distinctions, you should muzzle your mood, if perchance you be a bumpkin.

Conversation with good people is progressive, and progressive inversely, usually, where only one sex is present ❧ Excellent people feel the necessity of saying something better than has been said, otherwise silence is more becoming ❧ He who launches a commonplace where high thoughts prevail, is quickly

labeled as one who is with the yesterdays that lighted fools a-down their way to dusty death

Genius has always come in groups, because groups produce the friction that generates light. Competition with fools is not bad—fools teach the imbecility of repeating their performances. A man learns from this one, and that; he lops off absurdity, strengthens here and bolsters there, until in his soul there grows up an ideal, which he materializes in stone or bronze, on canvas, by spoken word, or with the twenty odd little symbols of Cadmus.

Greece had her group when the wit of Aristophanes sought to overtop the stately lines of Æschylus; Praxiteles outdid Ictinus; and wayside words uttered by Socrates were to outlast them all.

Rome had her group when all the arts sought to rival the silver speech of Cicero.

One art never flourishes alone—they go together, each man doing the thing he can do best. All the arts are really one and this

one art is simply Expression—the expression of Mind speaking through its highest instrument, Man.

Happy is the child born into a family where there is a competition of ideas, and the recurring themes are truth and love. This problem of education is not so much of a problem after all. Educated people have educated children.

Recipe for educating your child: EDUCATE YOURSELF.